

Jbara, Jennie L

From: Melissa-Rae Pratchard <pratchardm@mdusd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Dockets
Subject: Docket number: MC2021-78

Melissa Pratchard
Valhalla Elementary School
530 Kiki Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Hon. Michael Kubayanda
Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

April 28, 2021

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools.

I am the Office Manager at Valhalla Elementary in Pleasant Hill, California and there is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books—students and their families. There are already too many barriers to reading for most families at our school. We depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help us close the gap for our lower-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books, including for myself and my child.

Typically, about one-third of our students come from families that don't have the means to create home libraries for their children. As a Scholastic Book Clubs partner, our teachers are able to earn and use Bonus Points to build classroom libraries of books for their students. I personally purchase these low-cost but high-quality books for my son who would otherwise not have a new book of his own. These books, both in the classroom and at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in my son and our students, which has a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on my son and our students' learning experience and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt **educational materials**, so that we can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for my students and our families (including my own). The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost to bear.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pratchard

CC: Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney

Hon. Gary C. Peters

Hon. Ron A. Bloom

THANK YOU,

Melissa Pratchard

**OFFICE MANAGER
VALHALLA ELEMENTARY
530 KIKI DR.
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(925) 687-1700**

